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J. W. L.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Frank KUEHNEL and
Wolfgang WARNKE

Group Art Unit: 2171
Examiner: UNKNOWN

Application No.: 09/719,594

Filing Date: 03/09/2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Search reports from the German and European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is also enclosed. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of an Office Action, and therefore no fee is due.

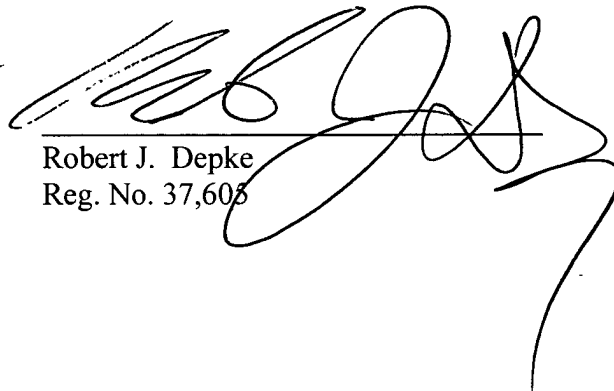
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration of relevant portions thereof by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 31 2001

Accordingly, Applicants are entitled to a priority date of April 13, 1999, removing Kohargi et al. as a reference. Accordingly, all rejections based on Kohargi et al. should be withdrawn and the application passed to allowance based upon the amendments in the Response of November 19, 2002.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and such fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

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Dated: January 6, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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